

The Examiner attention is also drawn to copending US application 09/978,993, Parker, D., which is a divisional of USSN 09/125,471, now US Patent 6,319,490. This application corresponds to PCT/EP97/00646 (WO 97/30601), Reference BN on the enclosed 1449 form.

Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of this case, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at the number below. It is not believed that this paper should cause any additional fees or charges to be required, other than expressly provided for already. However, if this is not the case the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit account 19-2570 accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 14 to 21, and 23 to 25 have been cancelled.

The following claims have been amended:

1 (amended). A [solid or semi-solid] composition for oral use [containing] comprising a calcium compound and an acidulant wherein calcium is present in the range of 0.3 to 0.65 mol per mol of acid and the proportion of calcium and acidulant in the composition is selected so that the effective pH of the solid or semi-solid composition is from 3.5 to 4.5.

4 (amended). A composition as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1 in which the calcium is present in an amount of at least 0.4 mol per mol of acid.

5 (amended). A composition as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1 in which the effective pH of the composition is not more than 4.

6 (amended). A composition as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 6] claim 5 in which the effective pH is from 3.7 to 3.9.

7 (amended). A composition as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1 in which the acid is citric acid, malic acid or lactic acid or mixtures thereof.

8 (amended). A composition as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1 in which the calcium compound is calcium carbonate, calcium hydroxide, calcium citrate, calcium malate, calcium lactate, calcium chloride, calcium glycerophosphate or calcium formate.

9 (amended). A composition as claimed [any one of claims 1 to 8] claim 1 which is a sweet.

11 (amended). A composition as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 9] claim 1 which is a dry powder blend.

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13 (amended). A composition as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 12] claim 1 which is an oral healthcare composition.

~~22 (amended). A process for preparing a solid or semi-solid composition containing a calcium compound and an acidulant [characterised in that] wherein the calcium is present in the range 0.3 to 0.8 mol per mol of acid and the effective pH of the composition is from 3.5 to 4.5, comprising mixing the calcium compound with the acidulant so that calcium is present in the range of 0.3 to 0.80 mol per mol of acid, and adjusting the pH, if necessary or desired, by addition of alkali so that the effective pH of the composition is in the range 3.5 to 4.5.~~

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